IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3, as follows:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/347,048 filed July 2, 1999 by Mark Albert, et al. entitled " SYNCHRONIZING SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS AMONG FORWARDING AGENTS USING A SERVICE MANAGER".

This application is related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/346,634 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP514] 062891.0865) entitled DISPATCHING PACKETS FROM A FORWARDING AGENT USING TAG SWITCHING filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,124 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP515] 062891.0866) entitled CASCADING MULTIPLE SERVICES ON A FORWARDING AGENT filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and copending U. S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,111 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP516] 062891.0867) entitled LOAD BALANCING USING DISTRIBUTED FORWARDING AGENTS WITH APPLICATION BASED FEEDBACK FOR DIFFERENT VIRTUAL MACHINES filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,428 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP517] 062891.0868) entitled GATHERING NETWORK STATISTICS IN A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK SERVICE ENVIRONMENT filed concurrently herewith which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,122 (Attorney Docket No.

[CISCP518] 062891.0869) entitled HANDLING PACKET FRAGMENTS IN A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK SERVICE ENVIRONMENT filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference Attorney Docket No. for all purposes; and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,108 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP519] 062891.0870) entitled SENDING INSTRUCTIONS FROM A SERVICE MANAGER TO FORWARDING AGENTS ON A NEED TO KNOW BASIS filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and copending U. S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,126 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP520] 062891.0871) entitled DISTRIBUTION OF NETWORK SERVICES AMONG MULTIPLE SERVICE MANAGERS WITHOUT CLIENT INVOLVEMENT filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,034 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP521] 062891.0872) entitled INTEGRATING SERVICE MANAGERS INTO A ROUTING INFRASTRUCTURE USING FORWARDING AGENTS filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,125 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP527] 062891.0875) entitled BACKUP SERVICE MANAGERS FOR PROVIDING RELIABLE NETWORK SERVICES IN A DISTRIBUTED ENVIRONMENT filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purpose; and co-pending U. S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,123 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP528] 062891.0876) entitled STATEFUL FAILOVER OF SERVICE MANAGERS filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes; and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. [_____] 09/347,109 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP529] 062891.0877) entitled NETWORK ADDRESS TRANSLATION USING A FORWARDING AGENT filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and co-pending U. S. Patent

Application No. [_____] 09/347,036 (Attorney Docket No. [CISCP530] 062891.0878) entitled PROXYING AND UNPROXYING A CONNECTION USING A FORWARDING AGENT filed concurrently herewith, which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.